

Kumamoto, Telonibonmachi 34,  
Kyūshū

Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 1921.

Dear Mr. Scudder:-

I have received your kind letter, which suggests to me that you have recovered from your illness - though you said nothing on the subject. I hope you are quite strong, and wish you could visit Japan for a season, and enjoy the mountain resorts during the autumn or spring. Sir Edwin Arnold came back to recruit after his American journey, and declared that his health was entirely restored by his sojourn here.

- I returned to Kumamoto only

on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, after having travelled several thousand miles by steamer and Kuruma. I have made the first exploration of the Oki islands. Foreign men of war have touched at Sasebo, the largest, but except a few naval officers, no other foreigners ever set foot on Oki soil, - and that was only en passant. In the other islands no foreigner was ever seen before. I

spent about three weeks in the different islands, and on my return journey crossed Japan for the third time by Kuruma, - taking a new route, I also visited Kyōto, Nara, &c., but it would

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require at least a year of study to write  
of the wonderful city ~~Kyōto~~. I don't know  
yet what I will be able to do with the  
material of my trip; - but I will do  
something, of course. The Oki Islands  
belong to Shimane Ken, and Iwano -  
properly the sketch ought to go into the  
book, perhaps. Perhaps <sup>most</sup> again, a  
separate narration of the curious things  
seen along the whole of my long  
journey, might be better. Of that another

— Messrs. Houghton & Mifflin  
have sent me the printed matter of  
the syndicated papers, and I shall  
begin work on them as soon as they  
arrive, & will forward each one  
in regular order as soon as possible,  
by registered letter.

— My great ambition is to  
write an emotional, living book -  
a sort of little "heart-book" about  
Buddhism - vital Buddhism, not  
anything esoteric or transcendental.  
But I cannot yet decide for myself  
whether I will be able to gratify that  
ambition. And I have lots of other  
work on hand for this year, - to be  
submitted to you some day.

With best regards ever  
sincerely yours  
Lafcadio Hearn